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Security Council

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Letter dated 23 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, I am writing on behalf of my Government to report to the Security Council that Australia has taken measures in the exercise of the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence following the armed attacks against the United States of America on 11 September 2001.

As you are aware, Australia has strongly condemned those responsible for the September terrorist attacks. There were 22 Australians among the thousands who lost their lives as a result of the attacks. Australia regards the catastrophic loss of life, injury and destruction endured by the international community as utterly repugnant and inhumane.

The United Nations has a critical role to play in ensuring that all Member States cooperate in taking the necessary steps to combat international terrorism. We fully support Security Council resolutions 1368 (2001) of 12 September 2001 and 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001, which affirm the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence and call upon all States to work together urgently to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of these appalling acts of violence.

To that end, Australia, in consultation with the United States, decided on 14 September 2001 that the Security Treaty between Australia, New Zealand and the United States (ANZUS Treaty), a mutual defence pact done on 1 September 1951, applied to the present situation. The Australian response relies upon this treaty, as well as Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Australian Prime Minister announced on 17 October 2001 that Australia would contribute elements of the Australian Defence Force, including land, air and naval units, to assist the United States-led military operations. Australia has now taken such measures in the exercise of the inherent right of individual and collective self-defence.

Australian personnel have been deployed to undertake military operations in support of the coalition response. These operations are in no way directed against civilian populations or Islam. When undertaking such military operations, Australia will scrupulously abide by its obligations under international humanitarian law.

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I ask that you circulate the text of the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) John **Dauth**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Australia to the United Nations